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DEPT FOR DSERCC, DS/IP/WHA, DS/DSS/EX, WHA/EX, S/S-O/DS,
S/CT, INR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: EMBASSY PORT-AU-PRINCE, EAC MEETING - JUNE 18, 2009

¶1. (SBU) On June 18, 2009, Post's core Emergency Action Committee (EAC) group was convened by Charge Thomas C. Tighe. Representatives from the following offices attended: DAO, CONS, POL, ECON, NAS, CGLO, MLO, GRPO, USAID and MGT. The EAC met to discuss recent security-related events in Port-au-Prince.

¶2. (SBU) The EAC discussed various threats stemming from: (a) the funeral proceedings today of Father Gerard Jean-Juste who is well known for his political association with the Fanmi Lavalas political party (former President Arisitide's political party); (b) the fatal shooting of a bystander outside the cathedral where the Jean-Juste funeral was being held and the subsequent rioting that occurred; and (c) the so-called "minimum wage" violent demonstrations (which also came to include anti-U.N. and anti-President Preval themes) in the downtown area of Port-au-Prince since early June.

¶3. (SBU) The EAC discussed the impact of these threats in regard to their potential impact on the following Embassy-related activities and events: (a) Transportation security (daily Embassy shuttle runs); (b) Upcoming VIP visits (CODELs); (c) Election observer teams traveling throughout Haiti on Sunday, June 21; and (d) Activities for post personnel over the course of the next week.

¶4. (SBU) EAC members concluded the meeting noting that all appropriate security measures are currently in place and that no additional security measures are warranted at this time. Post will maintain restrictive travel policy for the downtown area. The general assessment of the EAC and UN interlocutors is that the demonstrations and violence are likely to continue and may escalate as noted by the burning of a U.N. vehicle yesterday. The EAC will continue to monitor the threats and will meet as necessary. The EAC did agree that a Warden's notice is warranted and was issued as Warden's Message No. 72 dated June 18, 2009. RSO will decide on Travel Requests on a case-by-case basis and will encourage travelers to limit their requests to operational need only.

TIGHE